

Serial No.: Pending
Examiner: Cris Loiren Rodriguez
Art Unit: 3251

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 14-33, 35-38, 43-54 and 56-65 remain in the application. By this amendment claims 11-13, 34, 39-42, 55 and 66-89 have been canceled, and claims 1, 9, 27, 35, 36, 37, 56, 57 have been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-10, 14-33, 35-38, 43-54 and 56-65 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such allowance.

Claims Indicated as Being Allowed in Parent Application

The present application is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial number 09/977,434, filed on October 12, 2001 (parent application). During prosecution of the parent application, claims 11-13, 39-42 and 55 were indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, claims 11-13, 39-42 and 55 have been canceled in the present application to avoid duplication.

Claims Rejected in Parent Application

During prosecution of the parent application, claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 27, 34-38 and 56 were rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. patent number 5,411,480 to Kriesel. In response, claims 1, 2 and 9 were canceled without prejudice in the parent application in order to obtain allowance of the parent application as quickly as possible. However, applicant hereby resubmits claims 1, 2 and 9 in the present continuation application before the issuance of the parent application.

Independent claim 1 has presently been amended. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 as amended is patentable over U.S. patent number 5,411,480 to Kriesel. Claims 2-10,

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14-33, 35-38, 43-54 and 56-65 depend from claim 1. Applicant, therefore, respectfully submits that claims 1-10, 14-33, 35-38, 43-54 and 56-65 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such allowance.

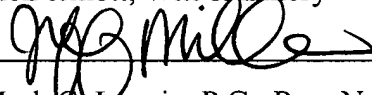
Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herein, applicant believes that all claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such allowance. If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Date: 11-4-03

Respectfully submitted,

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